

Listing of the Claims

1-35. (Cancelled)

36. (Amended) A stent-graft including:

a ~~structural layer comprising a bioabsorbable~~, radially compressible and radially expandable annealed tubular body having open ends and a sidewall structure having openings therethrough, and comprising a bioabsorbable portion; and

a compliant graft layer cooperating with the ~~structural layer~~ tubular body to form a stent-graft implantable at a treatment site in a body lumen, wherein the compliant graft layer tends to conform to the tubular body as the tubular body radially expands and contracts;

wherein the ~~structural layer~~ tubular body is radially expandable ~~when deployed upon deployment of the stent-graft at the treatment site and thereby is adapted to provide radial structural support at an initial level sufficient~~ to fix the stent-graft at the treatment site and maintain patency of the body lumen;

characterized in that the radial structural support provided by the tubular body ~~structural layer further is adapted to be at least partially absorbed is reduced over time responsive to absorption of the bioabsorbable portion in-vivo~~ following deployment, and further in that the graft layer in-vivo is adapted to remain at the treatment site while the tubular body is so absorbed during said absorption while being receptive to growth of body tissue therein and thereabout over time, to form with said body tissue a composite wall adapted to provide the radial structural support in lieu of the tubular body.

37. (Amended) The stent-graft of claim 36 wherein:

the ~~structural layer~~ tubular body is radially self-expandable and adjustable between a nominal state and a reduced-radius state.

38. (Amended) The stent-graft of claim 37 wherein:

the ~~structural layer~~ tubular body when deployed at the treatment site is adapted to exert a radial force to so fix the stent-graft and so maintain patency, and the radial force is gradually reduced ~~as the structural layer is so absorbed~~ during said absorption of the bioabsorbable portion.

39. (Amended) The stent-graft of claim 36 wherein:

the tubular body comprises a plurality of elongated, helically wound bioabsorbable filaments.

40. (Previously Presented) The stent-graft of claim 36 further including:

an adhesive for bonding the tubular body and the graft layer at least over a coextensive portion of the tubular body and the graft layer.

41. (Previously Presented) The stent-graft of claim 40 wherein:

the adhesive is bioabsorbable.

42. (Previously Presented) The stent-graft of claim 40 wherein:

the adhesive occupies only proximal and distal end portions of said coextensive portion.

43. (Previously Presented) The stent-graft of claim 36 wherein:

the tubular body consists essentially of a material selected from the group consisting of: poly (alpha-hydroxy acid), PGA, PLA, PLLA, PDLA, polycaprolactone, polydioxanone, polygluconate, polylactic acid-polyethylene oxide copolymers, modified cellulose, collagen, poly (hydroxybutyrate), polyanhydride, polyphosphoester, poly (amino acids), or combinations thereof.

44. (Previously Presented) The stent-graft of claim 36 wherein:

the stent-graft is adapted to be permeated with body tissue.

45. (Amended) The stent-graft of claim 36 wherein:

the graft layer is disposed on at least one of an inside surface of the ~~structural layer~~ tubular body and an outside surface of the ~~structural layer~~ tubular body.

46. (Amended) The stent-graft of claim 36 wherein:

the ~~structural layer~~ tubular body is comprised of a plurality of interbraided bioabsorbable structural filaments.

47. (Previously Presented) The stent-graft of claim 46 wherein:

the graft layer is comprised of a plurality of interbraided graft filaments.

48. (Previously Presented) The stent-graft of claim 36 wherein:

the graft layer is adapted to remain permanently at the treatment site.

49. (Cancelled)

50. (Previously Presented) The stent-graft of claim 36 wherein:

the graft layer comprises a plurality of interwoven components selected from the group of components consisting of: fibers, monofilaments, multi-filaments, and yarns.

51. (Previously Presented) The stent-graft of claim 36 wherein:

the graft layer consists essentially of a material selected from the group consisting of: PET, ePTFE, PCU, PU and combinations thereof.

52. (Amended) A stent-graft including:

~~a structural layer comprising a bioabsorbable~~, radially compressible and radially expandable tubular body having open ends, a sidewall structure having openings therethrough, an inside surface, ~~and an outside surface, and comprising a bioabsorbable portion~~; and

a first graft layer disposed on at least one of the inside surface and the outside surface, cooperating with the ~~structural layer~~ tubular body to form a stent-graft implantable at a treatment site in a body lumen, said first graft layer being more compliant than the ~~structural layer~~ tubular body and tending to conform to the ~~structural layer~~ tubular body as the ~~structural layer~~ tubular body radially expands and contracts;

wherein the ~~structural layer~~ tubular body is radially expandable ~~when deployed upon deployment of the stent-graft~~ at the treatment site to provide radial structural support at an initial level sufficient to fix the stent-graft at the treatment site and maintain patency of the body lumen, and further is adapted to be at least partially absorbed;

wherein the radial structural support provided by the tubular body is reduced over time responsive to absorption of the bioabsorbable portion in-vivo following deployment; and

wherein the first graft layer is substantially non-absorbable *in-vivo* and ~~adapted to remain at the treatment site~~ receptive to growth of body tissue therein and thereabout over time, to form with the body tissue a composite wall adapted to provide the radial structural support in lieu of the tubular body.

53. (Amended) The stent-graft of claim 52 wherein:

the tubular body is radially self-expandable and adapted to exert a radial force when deployed at the treatment site to so fix the stent-graft and so maintain patency, and the radial force is gradually reduced as the ~~structural layer is so absorbed~~ during said absorption of the bioabsorbable portion.

54. (Amended) The stent-graft of claim 52 wherein:

the ~~structural layer~~ tubular body is adapted to be completely absorbed *in-vivo* following deployment.

55. (Previously Presented) The stent-graft of claim 52 wherein:

the first graft layer is disposed on the inside surface.

56. (Amended) The stent-graft of claim 55 further including:

a second graft layer disposed on the outside surface, said second graft layer being more compliant than the ~~structural layer~~ tubular body and tending to conform to the ~~structural layer~~ tubular body as the ~~structural layer~~ tubular body radially expands and contracts.

57. (Cancelled)

58. (Amended) The stent-graft of claim 52 further including:

an adhesive for bonding the ~~structural layer~~ tubular body and the first graft layer.

59. (Previously Presented) The stent-graft of claim 58 wherein:

the adhesive is bioabsorbable.

60. (Amended) The stent-graft of claim 58 wherein:

the adhesive occupies only proximal and distal end portions of a coextensive portion over which the ~~structural layer~~ tubular body and the first graft layer are coextensive with one another.

61. (Amended) The stent-graft of claim 52 wherein:

the ~~structural layer~~ tubular body is comprised of a plurality of structural filaments braided together.

62. (Previously Presented) The stent-graft of claim 61 wherein:

the first graft layer is comprised of a plurality of interbraided graft filaments consisting essentially of a material selected from the group consisting of: PET, ePTFE, PCU, PU, and combinations thereof.

63. (Cancelled)

64. (Previously Presented) The stent-graft of claim 52 wherein:

the tubular body consists essentially of a material selected from the group consisting of: poly (alpha-hydroxy acid), PGA, PLA, PLLA, PDLA, polycaprolactone, polydioxanone, polygluconate, polylactic acid-polyethylene oxide copolymers, modified cellulose, collagen, poly (hydroxybutyrate), polyanhydride, polyphosphoester, poly (amino acids), and combinations thereof.

65. (Previously Presented) The stent-graft of claim 52 wherein:

the first graft layer is adapted to remain permanently at the treatment site.

66-76. (Cancelled)

77. (New) The stent-graft of claim 36 wherein:

the tubular body is adapted to be completely absorbed *in-vivo* following deployment.